

## Section 2

# Keeping the Driver's License



**THE PRIVILEGE AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF  
KEEPING YOUR LICENSE BELONGS TO YOU.**

## DRIVING RECORD

When you get a driver's license you start your DRIVING RECORD.

**From year to year and from state to state  
your driving record stays with you.  
Your driving record is for life.**

### Driving Records are used:

- by the state and insurance companies to see how safely you drive.
- to permanently record all your traffic tickets from all states; and
- to see if your license should be cancelled, suspended, or revoked.

Your driving record will be sent to you upon request for a \$4 fee.

If you have any questions, call the Motor Vehicle Division at (406) 444-3933.

**Drive Safely  
Follow the Rules of the Road  
KEEP YOUR DRIVING RECORD CLEAN!**

# IF YOU ARE GUILTY OF VIOLATING TRAFFIC LAWS, YOU MAY HAVE TO PAY:

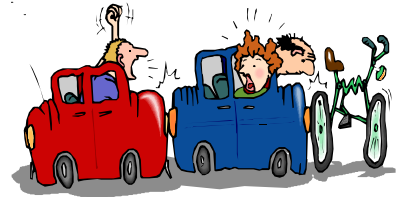
the traffic ticket

court costs



Also, your **INSURANCE RATES** may cost you more.

Many drivers get into serious trouble while driving a vehicle because they do not understand or inform themselves of the legal responsibilities of having a license.



If you have a question ask a driver license examiner or a police officer.

A copy of Montana Motor Vehicle Laws may be obtained from your local public library.

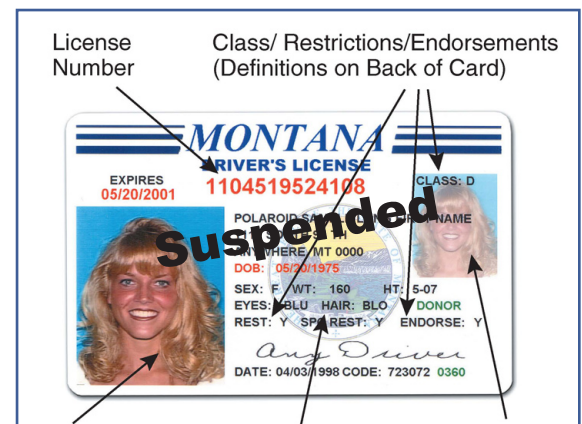
Ask for Title 61 of Montana Codes Annotated, or find it online at <http://opi.mt.gov/MCASearch/>

## Driver's License Suspension

A license to drive may be **SUSPENDED** for a number of reasons.

For example:

- The driver is **CONVICTED** of Driving Under the Influence of alcohol or drugs (**DUI**);
- The driver refuses to take a sobriety test;
- The driver has been in a serious crash where someone is killed or injured; and/or,
- Courts can order driver license suspension.



**SUSPENSION** means the driver license and privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways are temporarily withdrawn.

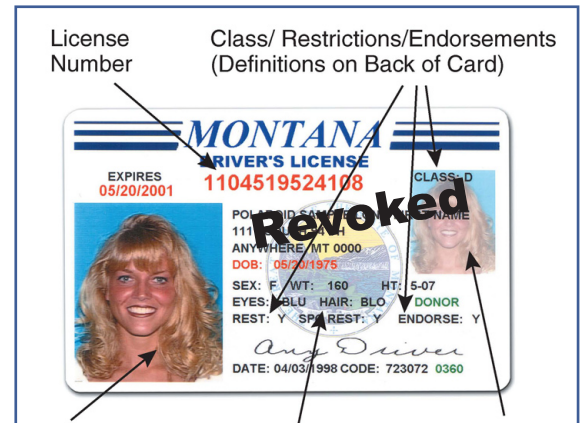
In some cases you might be eligible for a **PROBATIONARY** license limited to essential driving only to go to school or work while your license is suspended.

**SUSPENDED OR REVOKED DRIVERS!** If your privilege to operate a vehicle is currently suspended or revoked in another state, you are not eligible to be licensed to drive in Montana.

# Driver's License REVOCATION

A driver's license **MUST BE REVOKED** if a driver is convicted of crimes like:

1. Manslaughter caused by driving a motor vehicle.
2. Any serious crime when a motor vehicle was used.
3. Failure to stop and give help when you have been involved in a crash.
4. Fleeing from a peace officer.
5. Conviction Points: 30 or more in three years (see points listed on page 21)



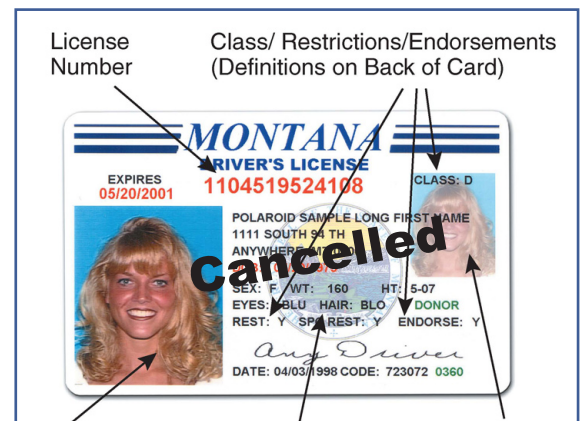
**NO KIND** of driver's license can be obtained during the time it is revoked.

**REVOCATION** means your license is terminated for one year or more and then you must pay all required fees, take and pass all the tests again.

## Cancellation of Your Driver's LICENSE

A license to drive may be **CANCELLED** if:

- a person gives false information on the application for a license.
- a person writes a check to get a license and has no money in the bank (non-sufficient funds)
- a person's parents withdraw their permission for the license.
- your license or privilege to drive is suspended or revoked in another state.



**CANCELLED** means your license is taken away. Your license is annulled and terminated. Before you can get another license, you must pay the fee and pass all tests again.

# RECKLESS DRIVING

Reckless driving means **DRIVING WITHOUT CARING**.

A reckless driver drives a vehicle in **WILLFUL** or **WANTON** disregard for the safety of persons or property.

The reckless driver does not care about:

- their own life;
- the lives of others;
- property damage; and/or
- safety.



**RECKLESS DRIVERS** are dangerous drivers.

## HABITUAL OFFENDER ACT

**THE HABITUAL OFFENDER ACT** is a Montana law which helps protect innocent drivers, pedestrians and passengers from reckless and careless drivers. Drivers who are careless or reckless and break the laws may crash or injure others. By getting **30 CONVICTION POINTS IN THREE YEARS**, they become “Habitual Offenders.”

**CONVICTION POINTS** are given for serious offenses like:

Deliberate homicide	15 points
Negligent vehicular homicide and assault	12 points
Other felony	12 points
DUI - Driving while intoxicated or drugged with narcotics	10 points
Failure to stop and help or give information when involved in a crash	4 or 8 points
Driving with your license suspended or revoked	6 points
Reckless driving ... driving with willful and wanton disregard for safety of persons and property	5 points
Illegal drag racing	5 points
Car Insurance violations	5 points
Hit and Run (property)	4 points
Speeding	3 points
No driver's license	2 points
Other moving violations	2 points

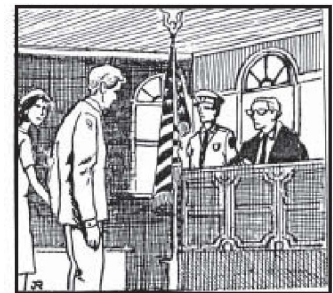
# HABITUAL OFFENDERS MAY NOT drive for THREE years.

If the Habitual Offender is **CONVICTED** of driving, he/she could go to jail for up to one year or could be fined \$1,000, or both.

## Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of ALCOHOL or DRUGS

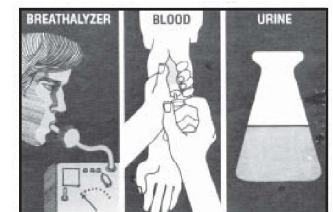
Any alcohol or drugs in your body will affect your driving.

Anyone arrested for drunken driving (**DUI**) **WHO REFUSES** to take an alcohol screening test will **LOSE THEIR LICENSE for SIX MONTHS** on the first offense.



**TESTS** show how much alcohol is in a driver's blood.

When you sign your driver license application you imply consent to be tested for blood alcohol content (**BAC**).



### ALCOHOL IGNITION INTERLOCK PROGRAM

Judges can order anyone convicted of the first DUI to install an Alcohol Ignition Interlock device. The driver breathes into the device and the car will not start when alcohol is detected.

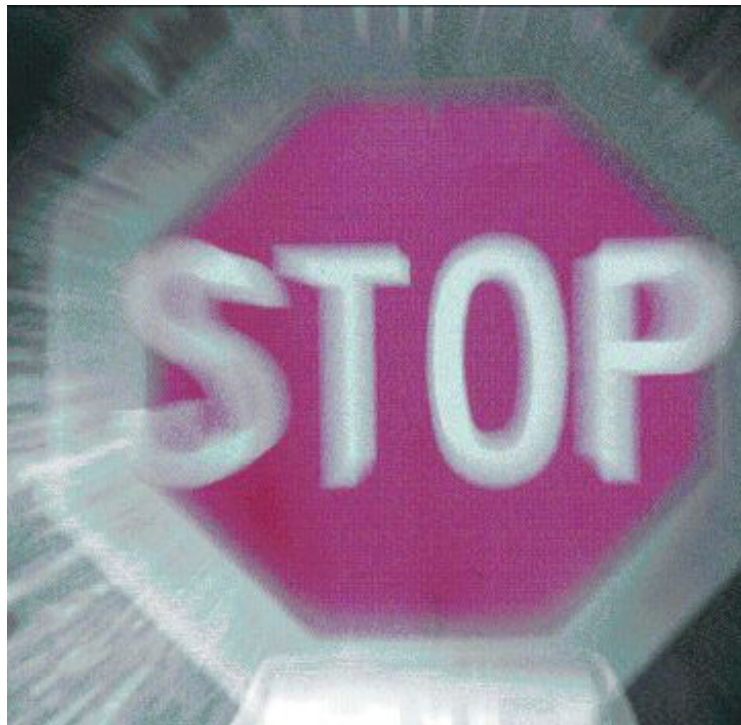
After a second **DUI** conviction, a judge may order a drunk driver to give up and forfeit any and all vehicles that belong to the convicted offender!



# **It is illegal in every state to drink when you are under 21. Drinking and driving is unsafe at any age.**

The law states a driver is Under the Influence (DUI) when blood alcohol content (BAC) is:

- .08 percent (BAC) for a person of any age;
- .04 percent (BAC) for a commercial driver; or
- .02 percent (BAC) for a person under age 21.



**If You Drink, Do Not Drive  
Drinking and driving is unsafe at any age.**

# SELF TEST Section 2 Keeping the Driver's License

**Directions: Choose only one answer.**

1. At what Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) does the law state you are under the influence of alcohol?
  - a. 0.00%
  - b. 0.08 %
  - c. 0.10%
  - d. all of the above
  
2. Your driving record is used:
  - a. by the state and your insurance company to establish how safely you drive
  - b. by the Department of Revenue to see if you have paid taxes
  - c. by direct mail companies to establish a mailing list
  - d. by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to keep track of the vehicles you own
  
3. What is a probationary license?
  - a. A license restricted to essential driving only
  - b. A license to practice driving a commercial vehicle
  - c. A learner's license to practice with
  - d. A temporary unrestricted license
  
4. A reckless driver is a driver who:
  - a. drives with a willful and wanton disregard for the safety of others
  - b. drives faster than the speed limit in daytime
  - c. has a crash
  - d. drives carefully
  
5. Drivers become "Habitual Offenders" when:
  - a. they get 30 points in a one-year period
  - b. they get 15 points in a three-year period
  - c. they get 30 points in a three-year period
  - d. they get 3 speeding tickets

6. "Habitual Offenders" will lose their license for:
  - a. three years
  - b. two years
  - c. six months
  - d. ten years
  
7. Persons who drive after drinking alcohol:
  - a. can have their license suspended
  - b. may have more expensive car insurance rates
  - c. may be put in jail
  - d. all of the above
  
8. If you refuse to take an alcohol test, you will lose your license for:
  - a. 60 days
  - b. 90 days
  - c. six months
  - d. three years